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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/588,731

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Joong-Won Cho

P-9054-US

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EXAMINER

FRISTOE JR, JOHN K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3753

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/06/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/588,731	Applicant(s) CHO, JOONG-WON	
	Examiner JOHN K. FRISTOE JR	Art Unit 3753	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 August 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/28/2008</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 4/28/2008 is acknowledged by the examiner.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “nipple” and “insulating ring” recited in claim 11 as well as a “sealing member” recited in claim 12 **must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.**

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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Claim Objections

3. Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: “tough” should be replaced with “touch”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear if Applicant is claiming a pivoting valve or a check valve since claim 8 recites that the spindle opens and closes the valve. A traditional “check valve” is opened by fluid pressure within the flow line.

6. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear to the examiner if the “nipple” recited in claim 11 is different from the “pipe fitting” recited in claim 1. It is also unclear to the examiner if the “insulating ring recited in claim 11 and the “sealing member” recited in claim 12 is different from the “sealing ring” recited in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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8. Claims 1-7 as well as 11 and 12 as far as they are definite, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,893,591 (Ebel et al.). Ebel et al. disclose a pipe coupling system comprising a pipe (11), a flange (12), a swivel nut (7), a soft sealing ring (23) formed in a thin plate shape having both planes (figure 1), a pipe fitting (2), a male screw (3), a support protrusion (flange below element 23 in figure 1), two folds (12), a stopper (9), wherein the pipe fitting (2) is protruded from the side surface (right end of element 2 in figure 1) of the pipe fitting (2) by a height smaller (figure 1) than the thickness (inherently thicker or it would not seal) of the soft sealing ring (23), and wherein the pipe fitting (2) includes a union (1).

Regarding the forming the pipe recited in claims 2 and 3, The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product in the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process (see MPEP 2113).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 7, 9, and 10 as well as 8 as far as it is definite, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,893,591 (Ebel et al.) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 2,925,247 (Fletcher). Ebel et al. disclose a pipe coupling system comprising a pipe (11), a flange (12), a swivel nut (7), a soft sealing ring (23) formed in a thin plate shape having both planes (figure 1), a pipe fitting (2), a male screw (3), a support protrusion (flange below element 23 in

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figure 1), two folds (12), a stopper (9), wherein the pipe fitting (2) is protruded from the side surface (right end of element 2 in figure 1) of the pipe fitting (2) by a height smaller (figure 1) than the thickness (inherently thicker or it would not seal) of the soft sealing ring (23), and wherein the pipe fitting (2) includes a union (1) but lacks the pipe fitting including a one-touch check valve. Fletcher teaches a valve comprising a valve body (5) forming a T shape (figure 1), an empty space (6, 7), a disk (8), a disk fixing pin (15), a flow control spindle (17), a lower end is bent (adjacent the lead line for element 8 in figure 1), an eccentric-axis cover (20), a valve seat (10), and a fixing nut to a male screw (adjacent the lead line for element 20 in figure 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the pipe coupling of Ebel et al. by attaching a valve to the assembly as taught by Fletcher in order to control the flow of fluid through the assembly.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,393,930 (Ziherl et al.) disclose a coupling.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,538,842 (Kowal et al.) disclose a coupling.

U.S. Pat. No. 1,712,707 (Larrigan) discloses a valve assembly.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John K. Fristoe Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-4926.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7: 00 a.m-4: 30 p.m.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin O. Evans can be reached on (571) 272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/John K. Fristoe Jr./
John K. Fristoe Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3753

JKF